Package for prevention of farmers' suicides

2894. SHRIMATI S.G. INDIRA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government are considering to introduce a package for preventing farmers' suicides in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether it is also a fact that the National Commission on Farmers has recommended formulation of a comprehensive national policy for farmers; and

(d) if so, the views of Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government is drawing up a package for the districts worst affected by the incidence of suicide by farmers. The package would address their credit, insurance, irrigation and subsidiary income needs, through dairy, poultry and horticulture.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) The recommendation is under consideration of the Government.

Agreement with Colombo on water management

2895. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the ICAR and Colombo based International Water Management Institute have signed an agreement for collaboration in different aspects of water management to enhance productivity in water sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far this will solve the water problem in our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI KANTI LAL BHURIA): (a) Yes, Sir. A Memorandum of Agreement between Indian Council of Agricultural Research/Department of Agricultural Research and Education, Government of India and the International Water